



Testimony of Greg Morrill  
President of AFSCME Local 431  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
HB 6931: AAC New Municipal Employees and the Municipal  
Employees Retirement System  
March 3, 2015

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Good afternoon, Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Greg Morrill. I am the President of AFSCME Local 431, representing Hamden Board of Education custodians.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 6931: An Act Concerning New Municipal Employees and the Municipal Employees Retirement System. We urge this committee to reject this proposal.

During our most recent contract negotiations, we agreed to language that says we will look at a defined-contribution plan for employees hired following the expiration of the contract should the Town of Hamden be able to remove themselves from MERS either through legislation or litigation. In light of all the work that the Town has done with our members to shore up our pension fund, we felt this was a move that would help preserve our right as a union to negotiate retirement security on behalf of our members. It was not an endorsement of a 401(k)-savings plan, nor an acceptance of that plan.

We did not agree to support changing the MERS plan. And we do not support them.

Our agreement was about preserving retirement security. This bill would take us in the wrong direction, making it more expensive for employees to retire.

We urge you to reject this concept.